

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**Illinois Forge  
2900 East Rock Falls Road  
Rock Falls, Illinois 61071**

**ATTENTION:**

**Lucas Ray  
Controller  
LucasR@forgerg.com**

**Request to Provide Information Pursuant to the Clean Water Act**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is requiring Illinois Forge to submit certain information about the facility at 2900 E. Rock Falls Rd., Rock Falls, IL. Appendix A provides the instructions needed to answer this information request, including instructions for electronic submissions. Appendix B specifies the information that you must submit. You must send this information to us within 30 calendar days after you receive this request. If you are unable to respond in a timely fashion because of impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic, please submit a written extension request via email to [Flatebo.Ted@epa.gov](mailto:Flatebo.Ted@epa.gov), explaining the specific impacts on your ability to respond.

We are issuing this information request under Section 308(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA or Act), 33 U.S.C. § 1318(a). Section 308(a) authorizes the Administrator of EPA to require the submission of information. The Administrator has delegated this authority to the Director of the Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, Region 5.

Section 308(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1318(a), provides, among other things, that whenever required to carry out an objective of the Act, the Administrator of EPA shall require the owner or operator of any point source to: establish and maintain such records, make such

reports, install, use, and maintain such monitoring equipment or methods (including where appropriate, biological monitoring methods), sample such effluents (in accordance with such methods, at such locations, at such intervals, and in such manner as the Administrator shall prescribe), and provide such other information as the Administrator may reasonably require.

Illinois Forge owns and operates a point source at the Rock Falls, Illinois facility. We are requesting this information to determine whether this source is complying with the CWA.

Illinois Forge must send all required information to [Flatebo.Ted@epa.gov](mailto:Flatebo.Ted@epa.gov). If, for some reason, materials cannot be transmitted electronically, submissions can be sent to:

Water Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
Attn: Ted Flatebo, ECA-15J  
77 W. Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois Forge must submit all required information under an authorized signature with the following certification:

I certify under penalty of law that I have examined and am familiar with the information in the enclosed documents, including all attachments. Based on my inquiry of those individuals with primary responsibility for obtaining the information, I certify that the statements and information are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for knowingly submitting false statements and information, including the possibility of fines or imprisonment pursuant to Section 308(a) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1318(a).

As explained more fully in Appendix C, Illinois Forge may assert a claim of business confidentiality under 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B for any part of the information submitted to us. Information subject to a business confidentiality claim is available to the public only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If Illinois Forge does not assert a business confidentiality claim when submitting the

information, EPA may make this information available to the public without further notice.

Illinois Forge should be aware, however, that pursuant to Section 308(b) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1318(b), and 40 C.F.R. § 2.302(e), effluent data, standards, and limitations are not eligible for confidential treatment.

This information request is not subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et seq.*, because it seeks collection of information from specific individuals or entities as part of an administrative action or investigation.

We may use any information submitted in response to this request in an administrative, civil or criminal action. Failure to comply fully with this information request may subject Illinois Forge to an enforcement action under Section 309 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319, and 18 U.S.C. §§ 1001 and 1341.

You should direct any questions about this information request to Ted Flatebo at 312-886-9402 or Flatebo.Ted@epa.gov, or your legal counsel may contact Cynthia King, attorney, at King.Cynthia@epa.gov or 312-886-6831.

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Michael D. Harris  
Division Director  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

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*(Signature and Date)*

## **Appendix A**

When providing the information requested in Appendix B, use the following instructions and definitions.

### **Instructions**

1. Provide a separate narrative response to each question and subpart of a question set forth in Appendix B.
2. Precede each answer with the number of the question to which it corresponds and, at the end of each answer, identify the person(s) who provided information used or considered in responding to that question, as well as each person consulted in the preparation of that response.
3. Indicate on each document produced, or in some other reasonable manner, the number of the question to which it corresponds.
4. When a response is provided in the form of a number, specify the units of measure of the number in a precise manner.
5. Where information or documents necessary for a response are neither in your possession nor available to you, indicate in your response why the information or documents are not available or in your possession, and identify any source that either possesses or is likely to possess the documents or information.
6. If information not known or not available to you as of the date of submission later becomes known or available to you, you must supplement your response. Moreover, should you find at any time after the submission of your response that any portion of the submitted information is false or incorrect, you must notify EPA as soon as possible.

### **Electronic Submissions**

To aid in our electronic recordkeeping efforts, we request that you provide all documents responsive to this information request in an electronic format according to paragraphs 1 through 6, below. These submissions are in lieu of hard copy.

1. Provide all responsive documents in Portable Document Format (PDF) or similar format, unless otherwise requested in specific questions. If the PDFs are scanned images, perform at least Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for “image over text” to allow the document to be searchable. Submitters providing secured PDFs should also provide unsecured versions for EPA use in repurposing text.
2. When specific questions request data in electronic spreadsheet form, provide the data and corresponding information in editable Excel or Lotus format, and not in image format. If Excel or Lotus formats are not available, then the format should allow for data to be used in calculations by a standard spreadsheet program such as Excel or Lotus.

3. Provide a table of contents for the electronic documents submitted in response to our request so that each document can be accurately identified in relation to your response to a specific question. *We recommend the use of electronic file folders organized by question number.*
4. Documents claimed as confidential business information (CBI) must be submitted in separate file folders apart from the non-confidential information. This will facilitate appropriate records management and appropriate handling and protection of the information claimed as CBI. Please follow the instructions in Appendix C for designating information as CBI.
5. Certify that all electronic submittals including attached files have been scanned for viruses and indicate what program was used.

### **Definitions**

All terms used in this Information Request have their ordinary meaning unless such terms are defined in the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*, or 40 C.F.R. Part 122.

1. “Act” or “CWA” means the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*
2. “Day” or “days” means a calendar day unless expressly stated to be a working day. In computing any period of time under this Information Request, where the last day would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal or state holiday, the period shall run until the close of business on the next working day.
3. “Discharge of a pollutant,” as defined in Section 502(12) of the CWA, mean *inter alia*, “any addition of any pollutant to navigable waters from any point source.” 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12).
4. “Facility” means the property located at 2900 E Rock Falls Rd, Rock Falls, IL 61071
5. “Navigable waters,” as defined in Section 502(7) of the CWA, means “the water of the United States, including the territorial seas.” 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7).

6. "Outfall" means a type of "point source," as that term is defined in Section 502(14) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14), that serves as a discharge point from the facility. "Outfall" followed by an Arabic numeral means that Outfall assigned that number in Lake In The Hills Sanitary District's NPDES permit.
7. "Record" or "records" means any recording of information in tangible or intangible form. It includes, but is not limited to: documents, memoranda, reports, letters, maps, graphs, charts, log books, notes, computer printouts, and computer databases.
8. "Storm water" shall mean storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, surface runoff and drainage.
9. "Wastewater" shall mean any water/liquid and all material conveyed with that water/liquid that contains process wastewater, discarded material, noncontact cooling and/or heating water, or domestic wastewater.
10. "You" or "Your" for purposes of this Information Request refers to Illinois Forge and to any managers, officers, agents, employees, contractors, or other entities that perform work or act in any way on behalf of, or at the direction of Illinois Forge.
11. "Point source," as defined in Section 502(14) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. 1362(14), means "any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance . . . from which pollutants are or may be discharged."
12. "Pollutant," as defined in Section 502(6) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(6), means "dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water."
13. "Publicly Owned Treatment Works" or "POTW" means a treatment works, as defined in Section 212 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1292(2), that is owned by a State, Tribe, or a municipality (as defined in Section 502(4) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(4)). Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 403.3(q) the definition of POTWs includes any devices and systems used in the storage, treatment, recycling, and reclamation of municipal sewage or industrial wastes of a liquid nature. It also includes sewers, pipes, and other conveyances only if they convey wastewater to a POTW Treatment Plant. The term also means the municipality as defined in Section 502(4) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(4), that has jurisdiction over indirect and direct discharges to such a treatment works.

## **Appendix B**

### **Information You Are Required to Submit to EPA**

Illinois Forge must submit the following information pursuant to Section 308(a) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1318(a):

1. Provide a comprehensive facility operational description (identify raw materials, processes used, final products, and wastes and their destination; attach an operational diagram including drainage locations if available).
2. How many hours does the facility operate per day? How many days does the facility operate per week? How many employees work at the facility?
3. How many gallons of supply water does the facility use per day?
4. Is daily water usage measured or estimated? Provide details.
5. List the daily water usage (in gallons) for:
  - a. Each production process;
  - b. Contact cooling water;
  - c. Boiler blowdown/makeup;
  - d. Evaporation (loss);
  - e. Non-contact cooling water; and
  - f. Sanitary.
6. Are any of the following processes conducted at the facility as defined by 40 C.F.R Part 420:
  - a. Cokemaking;
  - b. Sintering;
  - c. Ironmaking;
  - d. Steelmaking;
  - e. Vacuum Degassing;
  - f. Continuous Casting;
  - g. Hot Forming;
  - h. Salt Bath Descaling;
  - i. Acid Pickling;
  - j. Cold Forming;
  - k. Alkaline Cleaning;
  - l. Hot Coating;
  - m. Other Operations (direct-reduced iron production, briquetting, forging).

7. Have there been any significant changes in wastewater flow to the sewer in the past three years? (For the purpose of this request, a “significant change” is defined as a change greater than or equal to 20%). If so, list the date and amount of each significant change.
8. Does the facility treat its process wastewater prior to discharge to the sewer? If so, describe the type of pretreatment system and include a comprehensive schematic description.
9. Does the facility use any best management practices (BMPs)? BMPs are management and operational procedures that are intended to prevent pollutants from entering a facility’s wastestream or reaching a discharge point.) If so, provide a copy of the BMP.
10. Does the facility have a chemical storage area? If so, identify the chemicals that are maintained on site and how they are stored.
11. Does the facility have any spill control measures?
12. Does the facility have any floor drains?
  - a. If so, can chemicals reach floor drains if spilled?
  - b. Do floor drain/troughs lead to the sewer?
13. Does the facility generate sludge? If so, describe:
  - a. The sludge dewatering method (e.g., plate/frame filter, belt press, rotating drum vacuum, centrifuge, indexing paper filters, etc.);
  - b. Amount generated (55 gal barrel [bbl]/mo);
  - c. What happens to liquid from dewatering;
  - d. Sludge storage capacity;
  - e. Sludge shipping amounts and frequency; and
  - f. Name of sludge hauler.
14. Does the facility generate hazardous waste (as defined by 40 C.F.R. Part 261)? If so:
  - a. What type, quantity, and frequency of hazardous waste does the facility generate;
  - b. Describe how the facility disposes of hazardous waste;
  - c. Indicate whether the facility discharges hazardous wastes to the sewer; and
  - d. If the facility discharges hazardous waste to the sewer, provide a copy of the notice required by 40 C.F.R. § 403.12(p).



15. Provide a copy of self-monitoring records for all sampling conducted over the past three years. Each monitoring record shall include a copy of:
- a. The date, exact place, method, and time of sampling and the names of the person or persons taking the samples;
  - b. The dates analyses were performed;
  - c. Who performed the analyses;
  - d. The analytical techniques/methods used;
  - e. The results of such analyses;
  - f. Flow monitoring data;
  - g. Production data, if the facility is subject to production-based standards;
  - h. Chain of custody form(s); and
  - i. The certification required under 40 C.F.R. § 403.12(l), if the facility is a categorical industrial user.
16. How many sample points are at the facility?
17. Does the facility take samples and/or measure flow for all of its process wastewater discharges?
18. What type of flow monitoring device(s) does the facility use?
19. How often is the facility's flow monitoring device(s) calibrated?
20. Are any dilution wastestreams present at the facility's sample location(s)?<sup>2</sup>
21. Are any of the process conducted at the facility subject to a categorical pretreatment standard? If so, which standard(s)?
22. Do any of the facility's sample points represent discharges from a categorical process combined with one or more different categorical processes and/or dilution wastestreams? If so, then provide the following for each sample point:
- a. The presumed applicable categorical rule;
  - b. The average daily flow (at least a 30-day average) for each categorical stream;
  - c. The average daily flow (at least a 30-day average) for dilution streams; and
  - d. The average total daily flow (at least a 30-day average) through the sample point.

<sup>2</sup> Under 40 C.F.R. § 403.6, dilution streams may be Boiler blowdown streams, non-contact cooling streams, stormwater streams, and demineralizer backwash streams; or sanitary wastestreams.

23. Has the facility exceeded any pretreatment standards in the past three years? If so, then:
  - a. Provide a description of each exceedance;
  - b. Provide a copy of the notice required under 40 C.F.R. § 403.12(g)(2); and
  - c. Indicate whether the facility repeated sampling and analysis, and submitted results to EPA of the repeat analysis within 30 days of discovering the exceedance.
24. Has the facility had one or more upsets in the past three years?<sup>3</sup> If so, did the facility notify EPA as required under 40 C.F.R. § 403.16(c)(3)?
25. Has the facility bypassed any part of its wastewater treatment system? If so, did the facility notify EPA as required under 40 C.F.R. § 403.17(c)?
26. Is the facility required to implement a slug discharge control plan under 40 C.F.R. § 403.8(f)(2)(vi)?<sup>4</sup> If so, submit a copy of the plan.
27. Provide a copy of a baseline monitoring report required under 40 C.F.R. § 403.12(b).
28. Who is the facility owner of record over the past 5 years?
29. Who has operated at the facility over the past 5 years? In answering this question, describe the corporate relationship (if any) between that operator and Illinois Forge, and identify who is responsible for environmental compliance at the facility.
30. When did operations begin at this facility?
31. Since the facility began operations: Have any major modifications or upgrades taken place at the facility? Have any process been added or changed?
32. Provide a list of all Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) or North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes associated with the operations of the facility?
33. Provide copies of the following records (March 2018 – Present):
  - a. Water usage receipts;
  - b. Any environmental permits from 2011 – present (waste water discharge, storm water, etc.);
  - c. Hazardous waste hauling manifests; and
  - d. Illinois EPA No-Exposure certificate for stormwater

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<sup>3</sup> Under 40 C.F.R. § 403.16(a), “upset” means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with categorical Pretreatment Standards because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the Industrial User.

<sup>4</sup> Under 40 C.F.R. § 403.8(f)(2)(vi), a Slug Discharge is any Discharge of a non-routine, episodic nature, including but not limited to an accidental spill or a non-customary batch Discharge, which has a reasonable potential to cause Interference or Pass Through, or in any other way violate the sewage treatment plant’s regulations, local limits or Permit conditions.

## **Appendix C**

### **Confidential Business and Personal Privacy Information**

#### **Assertion Requirements**

You may assert a business confidentiality claim covering any parts of the information requested in the attached Appendix B, as provided in 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b).

To make a confidentiality claim, submit the requested information and indicate that you are making a claim of confidentiality. Any document for which you make a claim of confidentiality should be marked by attaching a cover sheet stamped or typed with a caption or other suitable form of notice to indicate the intent to claim confidentiality. The stamped or typed caption or other suitable form of notice should employ language such as “trade secret” or “proprietary” or “company confidential” and indicate a date, if any, when the information should no longer be treated as confidential. Information covered by such a claim will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent permitted and by means of the procedures set forth at Section 308(a) of the CWA and 40 C.F.R. Part 2. Please clearly identify portions of otherwise non-confidential documents that you are claiming as confidential. EPA will construe the failure to furnish a confidentiality claim with your response to the information request may result in the information being made available to the public without further notice to you.

#### **Determining Whether the Information Is Entitled to Confidential Treatment**

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B, EPA may at any time send you a letter asking that you support your confidential business information (CBI) claim. If you receive such a letter, you must respond within the number of days specified by EPA. Failure to submit your comments within that time would be regarded as a waiver of your confidentiality claim or claims, and EPA may release the information. If you receive such a letter, EPA will ask you to specify which portions of the information you consider confidential by page, paragraph and sentence. Any information not specifically identified as subject to a confidentiality claim may be disclosed to the requestor without further notice to you. For each item or class of information that you identify as being CBI, EPA will ask that you answer the following questions, giving as much detail as possible:

1. For what period of time do you request that the information be maintained as confidential, e.g., until a certain date, until the occurrence of a special event or permanently? If the occurrence of a specific event will eliminate the need for confidentiality, please specify that event.
2. Information submitted to EPA becomes stale over time. Why should the information you claim as confidential be protected for the time period specified in your answer to question number 1?
3. What measures have you taken to protect the information claimed as confidential? Have you disclosed the information to anyone other than a governmental body or someone who is bound by an agreement not to disclose the information further? If so, why should the information still be considered confidential?

4. Is the information contained in any publicly available databases, promotional publications, annual reports or articles? Is there any means by which a member of the public could obtain access to the information? Is the information of a kind that you would customarily not release to the public?
5. Has any governmental body made a determination as to confidentiality of the information? If so, please attach a copy of the determination.
6. Do you assert that the information is submitted on a voluntary or a mandatory basis? Please explain the reason for your assertion. If you assert that the information is voluntarily submitted information, explain whether and why disclosure of the information would tend to lessen the availability to EPA of similar information in the future.
7. Is there any other information you deem relevant to EPA's determination regarding your claim of business confidentiality?

If you receive a request for a substantiation letter from the EPA, you bear the burden of substantiating your confidentiality claim. Conclusory allegations will be given little or no weight in the determination.

EPA may also find that the information you claim as confidential is clearly not entitled to confidential treatment and will provide you a determination letter stating the same. Examples of information clearly not entitled to confidential treatment include effluent data, as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 2.302(A)(2), and information in National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit applications are not entitled to confidential treatment. See 40 C.F.R. § 122.7.

### **Personal Privacy Information**

Please segregate any personnel, medical and similar files from your responses and include that information on a separate sheet(s) marked as "Personal Privacy Information." Disclosure of such information to the general public may constitute an invasion of privacy.